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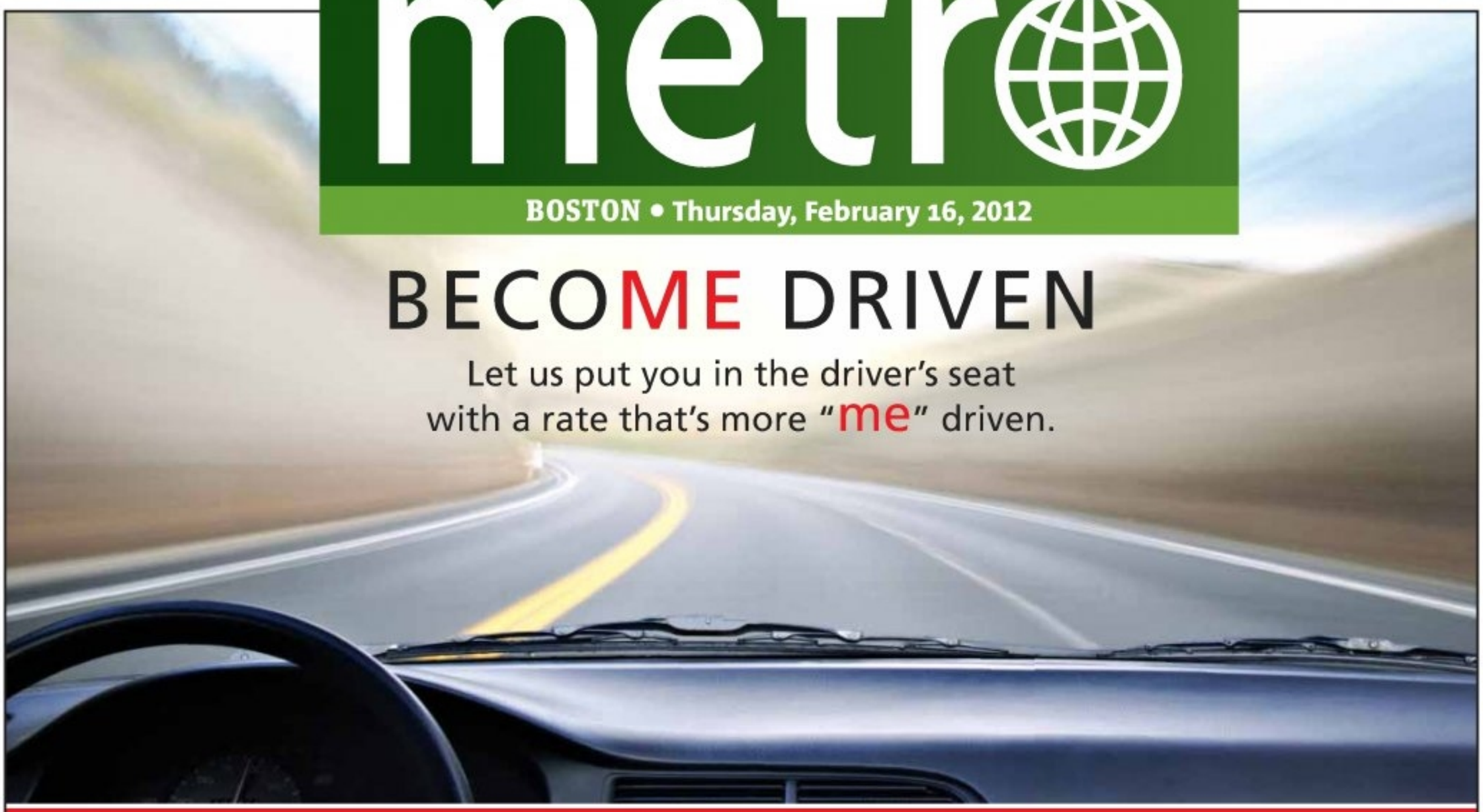

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CAN WE REVOKE HIS FAME, PLEASE? {page 06}

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BOSTON
Thursday, February 16, 2012

New scenario could stop drastic T cuts

Service reductions not part of MBTA Advisory Board's financial plan Proposal includes surchage on event tickets, smaller fare hike and student fees Report puts burden of T's money woes on whole state rather than just the riders {page 02}

ERIN BALDASSARI/METRO

10 years. Of this?

▶ James Jones plays a video game at the PAX East gaming convention in Boston last year.

Rejoice, East Coast gamers. The popular PAX East convention will stick around for at least the next decade. Convention officials and state leaders said yesterday they inked a deal to keep the event in Boston through 2023. Tens of thousands of people have flocked to the video and computer game convention the past two years it has been held in the Hub. Officials said the deal will result in millions of dollars from visitors. {page 04}

Metropolitik

GOP preaches tolerance, but not for Islam

Republicans accuse Obama of declaring war on religion Meanwhile, they proudly persecute Muslims {page 07}

Music sees a 'Re:Generation'

New film puts Mark Ronson, DJ Premier and Skrillex in unfamiliar settings {page 08}

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In the news

5

Boston ranked fifth in the nation amongst cities that have the highest number of cybercrime risk factors. The report was conducted by Norton and independent research firm Sperling's Best-Places. The study examined consumer behavior habits and accessing potentially unsafe Wi-Fi hot spots.

Today's local tweet

"#BU shuttle driver and MBTA bus driver communicating via hand gestures. Not sure if flirting or bus driver sign language. #both?"

@_AMANDAMARJORIE, WATCHING TWO DRIVERS TALK WITH THEIR HANDS WHILE RIDING TRANSIT, SINCE THEY CAN'T TEXT BEHIND THE WHEEL

News in brief

Feds probe Harvard over complaint

CAMBRIDGE. After receiving a complaint about discrimination against Asian-Americans, the U.S. Education Department is investigating Harvard University.

A complaint was received in August from a California high school student who was among the top students in his class and was denied admission to the school, according to Bloomberg. The student's family originally came from India. METRO

Despite murders, serious crime down

CAMBRIDGE. Despite recording five homicides last year, overall serious crime in Cambridge fell, according to data released yesterday.

There were 47 fewer serious crimes reported in the city last year than in 2010 resulting in a 1 percent decline.

The five murders were the result of violent domestic incidents last year. METRO

Kennedy to announce run

BROOKLINE. Joseph P. Kennedy III will announce today that he is running for Congress.

The grandson of Robert F. Kennedy will make the announcement in an online video and will follow that with a tour of the 4th Congressional District, according to Boston.com. METRO

Exclusive

▶ No more shuttle buses!

RED LINE WEEKEND SERVICE TO BE RESTORED IN MARCH

Red Line riders north of Boston that have been relegated to shuttle buses on weekends can breathe a sigh of relief because starting March 10 full weekend service will be restored.

Since Nov. 5, trains between Alewife and Harvard stations were shut down on Saturdays and Sundays, while T workers conducted critical track repairs and upgrades.

Yesterday, T officials said the months-long $39.3 million project would finish on budget and on time, a rarity for such construction projects.

"It's been going better than we had expected," said Michael Turcotte, assistant general manager of engineering and maintenance.

Upgrades to the underground passageways include sealed cracks and plugged water leaks as well as new power lines, railway slabs and third rails.

The unusually warm winter weather also contributed the T's on-time completion, according to Turcotte.

"Our crews were magnificent. It started out a little rough, but once things started to get done, they really performed very well," he said.

STEVE ANNEAR

Advisory board has potential MBTA solution

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ T riders may be saved from drastic service cuts, that included all ferry service, under a plan from the T Advisory Board. The proposal calls for new fees, a smaller fare hike and realigning Transit police.

Members of the MBTA Advisory Board have cooked up a solution to the T's looming debt that would put the burden of closing the $161 million budget gap on the shoulders of the whole state, rather than just the riders.

In a 24-page report released yesterday, the board outlined a proposal that could generate $91.6 million in new revenue and find an additional $79 million in savings through transportation reform without cutting MBTA services.

The proposal also only calls for a 25 percent fare increase, which is lower than the T's proposed fare increases.

"The public is demanding a new alternative and no one has put one out there yet," said Brian Kane, budget and policy analyst for the advisory board.

According to the report, by shifting the cost of the MBTA Transit Police Department to the state while handing over ferry services and selling waterfront assets to Massport, the T could save millions.

Universities and public venues that benefit from the T would also be asked to chip in some cash, while concert and sporting event attendees would get slapped with a 50 cents surcharge on tickets to go toward the transit authority.

The report also calls for students to pay a $10 annual student ID fee to help maintain critical services.

While they admit it's not perfect, Kane said the board's plan is a feasible solution to close the gap by the T's deadline in the spring.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

Alternative options

The report highlights the following ideas:

- **Avoid** proposed service cuts.
- **Add** a 50 cents surcharge on tickets to sporting events and theaters to go toward the T.
- **Reinstate** alcohol advertisements on T vehicles.
- **Ask** institutions/colleges that benefit from the T to "put money on the table."
- **No** MBTA pay raises for any employees in fiscal 2013.
- **Increase** parking costs by 25 percent at select stations.

MBTA GM says officials mulling it over

According to the board, "[the proposal] provides a window of opportunity for the Patrick-Murray administration to lead us out of this mess."

MBTA officials said they received the report yesterday and are in the process of reviewing it. Acting General Manager Jon Davis said he'll meet with the Advisory Board's executive director in the next few weeks. He called it a "thoughtful approach," but said it is too early to tell what could be implemented. METRO/SA

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Boston gains control of gaming event

Gaming is coming to the Bay State for the next decade — and no, it doesn't involve rolling dice or playing the slots.

State officials and the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority cemented a 10-year deal with popular "Pax East" convention yesterday, a three-day festival for tabletop, video game and PC gaming. The annual event will now be held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center through 2023.

"It is coming home to a state that wants to nurture, support and grow the industry," said Lt. Governor Timothy Murray yesterday during a press conference.

In its first two years showcasing in the Hub, the convention brought in $10 million in spending revenue from guests staying at hotels and visiting.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

$325K
Amount PAX East donated to Massachusetts Digital Games Institute toward collaboration between academia and the gaming industry.

70K
In its first two years in Boston, PAX East drew in nearly 70,000 attendees. This year the event will be held April 6 through 8.

Winter sports. Education

▶ Charolette Vien, 6, skated on Frog Pond yesterday.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Frog Pond becomes classroom

More than 50 elementary school children from Dorchester's Mather school glided — and sometimes fell — on the ice of the Frog Pond rink yesterday. The children were given skating lessons from the The Skating Club of Boston Skating Academy as part of a partnership with the public schools. METRO

DA: Pol uses dead person's name on ballot

A Marlborough candidate for City Council was charged with allegedly forging the signature of a dead person on an absentee ballot application.

Mark Evangelous, 51, pleaded not guilty yesterday to voter fraud charges.

Authorities said he submitted a handwritten absentee ballot application last October that was filled out with the name of an 89-year-old Marlborough resident. During a check of the form, it was discovered that the resident had passed away earlier that year.

$0 A Middlesex Superior Court magistrate released Evangelous on personal recognizance. He was charged with forgery, uttering and violations of absentee voting laws.

Authorities said Evangelous filled out the form with the dead person's name, knowing the person had passed away. METRO

Minority BPD officers sue city

BOSTON. Some minority Boston Police supervisors filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday that claimed they were unable to advance in the department because of a discriminatory exam.

The nine black officers argue that the city should do away with a multiple-choice lieutenant's test, which black and Latino officers have typically scored worse on, according to the Globe.

Of the 51 lieutenants, two are black and one is Asian.

The city said that it could not comment because it had not yet been served with the lawsuit. METRO/GLOBE

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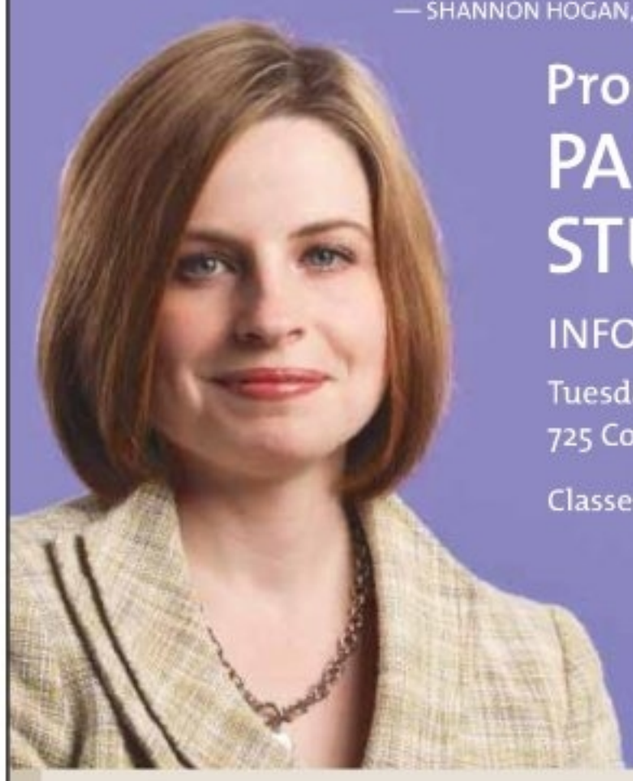
— SHANNON HOGAN, paralegal; BU certificate awarded 2011



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Someone's declared war; who is it?

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Wait just one minute. We hate falling into The Trap — the two-party conundrum in which we end up defending Democrats against outright lies and mischaracterizations despite our longstanding dissatisfaction with that party — but we're going to bite on this one. Just who is waging war on whom, here?

Republican noisemakers — including most of the current presidential candidates as well as leading legislators and right-leaning news pundits — have framed the Obama administration's efforts to ensure reproductive health care for all women as an attack on religious liberty; this despite an accommodation ensuring organizations like the Catholic Church (which benefit enormously from federal largesse) have absolutely no role in providing female health services.

Mitt Romney — who as Mass. governor presided over a similar insurance mandate system, even requiring Catholic hospitals to provide morning-after pills for rape victims — decries "the Obama Administration's attacks on religious liberty." Sarah Palin also calls it "a war on our religious liberties." Rick Santorum says Obama is "hostile to people of faith." Donald Trump says "[Obama] loves radical Islam."

JEFF FUSCO/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Santorum is only hostile toward non-Christian faiths.

GET FED

Because sometimes you only have time to skim the headlines:

- "White House: Freedom is Dangerous and Wrong" **NATIONAL REVIEW ONLINE**
- "Obama's Winning The Wedge Issue" **THE DAILY BEAST**
- "Elie Wiesel to Mitt Romney: Tell Mormon Church to Stop Baptizing Jews who Died in Holocaust" **SLATE**
- "Romney's Closer To Obama On Auto Bailout Than Either Lets On" **TALKING POINTS MEMO**
- "President Santorum Would Talk 'About the Dangers of Contraception'" **REASON MAGAZINE**
- "Obama Advisor Teamed Up With 'Swift Boat' GOP Consultant For Pro-Hedge Fund Campaign" **REPUBLIC REPORT**

Considering these comments — and many, many others — it certainly does seem that a war has been declared, though not the one these thought leaders would have us believe. See, there's an interesting quirk about religious liberty that these titans of the right seem to consistently overlook: That is, it necessarily applies to even non-Christian religions.

So when Newt Gingrich — who said last week that he would "repeal every act of religious bigotry put in by President Obama" — tells voters he would only hire Muslim workers after they pass a strict loyalty test, he shows himself as the true religious bigot. And when Trump accuses Obama of consorting with Islamist extremists, he actually implies that religious freedom is indeed high on the president's priorities (ignoring the fact that his statement has no basis in reality). Santorum's religious hypocrisy is revealed in his forceful denunciations of Sharia law — even as he pushes his own brand of Christian law on the nation. Palin strongly opposed building a mosque in New York City. Romney does not think "a cabinet position would be justified" for any Muslim.

Those most loudly accusing Obama of religious intolerance are in fact the most intolerant of all! Their concerns reflect only their incredibly narrow beliefs. Marginalizing one religion while playing the victim card over their own supposed persecution, these people don't care about liberty for anyone but themselves: They want to establish America as a Christian nation that imposes Christian beliefs on all. That's religious war.

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Will Bobby Brown attend Whitney Houston's funeral?

Whitney Houston's funeral will be held on Saturday at her childhood church, the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, N.J., the church pastor said Tuesday night. The invitation-only funeral is expected to be attended by 1,500 or so people, with the public remaining uninvited. But there's one person whose inclusion on the guest list is still up in the air: Houston's ex-husband, **Bobby Brown**. TMZ reports that the singer is "extremely disappointed" after hearing that several members of Houston's family do not want him to attend Saturday's service. Apparently, Houston's family isn't "fond of him" (um, understatement of the century, TMZ). The site reports that Brown wants to go to support **Bobbi Kristina**, his daughter with Houston, but hasn't "decided on a plan of action yet."

However, we do know Brown will be on the East Coast this weekend, as he is scheduled to perform with his group, New Edition, on Saturday at the Mohegan Sun Arena. The Sun's publicist sent a release yesterday saying that, as of yesterday, Brown was still scheduled to perform.

▶ Makeshift memorials from fans are already going up at the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, N.J.

Chris Brown responds to haters

Good work, America. **Chris Brown** is taking all of the negative attention people have showered on him since Sunday's Grammy Awards to heart and is now on a Twitter rampage. He tweeted last night: "HATE ALL U WANT BECUZ I GOT A GRAMMY Now! That's the ultimate F— OFF!"

You know who else won a Grammy? **Milli Vanilli**. So don't put yourself in such high esteem there, bub.

▶ Brown

Winslet doesn't want to see herself in 3-D

Kate Winslet is bracing herself for the 3-D re-release of "Titanic," 15 years after it originally came out. The actress has already seen 17 minutes of footage, and it wasn't necessarily a pleasant experience. "I was literally like, 'Oh my God, make it stop. Is that me? Block my ears, somebody. Somebody club out my senses. Make it f—ng stop,'" Winslet tells USA Today. "I'm sure I wasn't really a very good actress. Seriously, we are talking about something that happened 15 years ago. It is a very long time ago."

Don't worry, Kate. We have a feeling everyone in the audience will have the same reaction.

Winslet

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Lady Gaga is looking for ways to relax, Stephen Fry is far from home, Kathy Griffin is reconsidering her choices and Alec Baldwin is setting his sights.

@ladygaga
Been working like a crazy b--ch all day. Need to smoke a joint or something; or maybe just a good punch in the face. PROPS PROPS PROPS.

@stephenfry
It's 6.50 am in Sydney. Got an hour or so to wait till the flight to Wellington and then I shall finally be in Hibbety-Hobbity land. Hurrah.

@kathygriffin
Should I have worn underwear???

@alecbaldwin
I want a Grammy. I just want it.

Griffin

Talking points

Seyfried dishes about Phillippe

While **Amanda Seyfried** and **Ryan Phillippe** never officially acknowledged they were dating at the time, Seyfried now says the whole thing was a mistake. When asked by Glamour magazine if she and Phillippe still keep in touch, Seyfriend says, "We don't. His situation is very difficult." She doesn't go into many details about what those difficulties are, though. "You know when two people shouldn't be together from the get-go? That's why [we split]," she says.

▶ Seyfried

Jolie's down-to-earth worldview

Awards season may mean more gowns and red carpets than usual, which may be why **Angelina Jolie** has glitz and glamour on her mind. The actress and first-time director insists that's all just a part of the job — and not a terribly important one. "Every now and then I get a dress on and I walk a red carpet but it's kind of a funny thing you do," Jolie says, according to Radar Online. "It's a party you go to occasionally but it's not who you really are. It's all just part of the job. I have a real view of the real world, and I am very happy in the real world."

Brand has already moved on

While **Katie Perry** unveiled a new angry breakup song at the Grammys over the weekend, soon-to-be ex-husband **Russell Brand** was reportedly already enjoying the single life, taking in a show at comedy and music venue the Largo in Los Angeles with an attractive young woman by his side, according to the Sun. After the show, the two retired to his house, and Brand drove her home the next morning. "Russell is a single man again and starting to move on from Katy," a source tells the newspaper. "Like any bloke, he had missed female company. He isn't quite back to his old ways yet, but he's very much back in the saddle."

How the celebs spent Valentine's Day

1. Jack Nicholson attended a basketball game between the Hawks and the Lakers in Los Angeles.

2. Gabrielle Union strutted on the red carpet at the premiere of Tyler Perry's "Good Deeds" in Los Angeles.

3. Gavin DeGraw performed on-stage at Shepherds Bush Empire in London.

4. Tony Bennett accepted a key to the city at San Francisco City Hall, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of his first performance of "I Left My Heart In San Francisco."

5. "Jersey Shore" star **Pauly D** hosted a party at Pacha in New York City.

6. Dita Von Teese posed following a performance in New York.

7. Jaqson Johnston-Lynch, 8 years old, presented **Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge** a bouquet of flowers after her visit to a Liverpool charity.

1: KOEL VASQUEZ/GETTY IMAGES
2: FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES
3: ANDY SHEPPARD/REDFERNS
4: MAX MORSE/GETTY IMAGES
5: STEVE MACE/GETTY IMAGE
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Talkin' 'bout 'Re:Generation'

It's not easy to throw Mark Ronson for a loop. Having produced such varied acts as Amy Winehouse, Duran Duran and Nas, he was eager to get involved in a fish-out-of-water musical experience like "Re:Generation," the new film which pairs producers with unlikely musicians.

"That has always appealed to me," he says, "the idea of stretching genres."

For his part, Ronson brings one of his favorite backing bands, the Dap-Kings, to New Orleans to create a jazz song with Erykah Badu, Trombone Shorty, Mos Def and drummer Joseph "Zigaboo" Modeliste.

"We were all pretty much just going into it with Zigaboo as a complete hero of all of ours," says Ronson. "His drum breaks from the early Meters stuff are pretty much the DNA of hip-hop and funk."

Elsewhere in the film, DJ Premier visits Boston to work with the Berklee Symphony Orchestra, Skrillex works with the surviving members of The Doors, The Crystal Method work with Martha Reeves and the Funk Brothers, while Pretty Lights struggles to create something country with LeAnn Rimes and Dr. Ralph Stanley.

"I saw it in the trailer that there's a little tension and some serious culture and generational gaps going on, and I'm a little bit concerned that our thing is going to seem a bit boring," says Ronson, whose composition seems to come together organically. A key to the kinship was hanging out: "We went to this kind of alternative scene bar where like 80 percent of the dudes had full face tattoos and they were playing this music called bounce, and we just absorbed all of New Orleans, not just its traditional culture."

BRIAN NEVINS

▶ Mark Ronson, center, jams with members of the Dap-Kings, Zigaboo Modeliste and Trombone Shorty. "Re:Generation" screens for one night only tonight at 8 at AMC Boston Common and at The Regent in Arlington tonight and tomorrow night. Visit www.regenerationmusicproject.com for more info.

Premier premieres

DJ Premier may have had the assignment that was least similar to what he regularly does. The hip-hop producer, known for his work with rappers like Snoop Dogg and Kanye West, had to create a piece of classical music. "I really enjoyed having the chance to learn something new," says Premier. Granted access to classical greats, Premo sampled various composers to piece his ideas together. Then he collaborated with Berklee professor Stephen Webber, who transcribed the samples into written music. "Working with everyone on this was just dope," says Premier.

G. VALENTINO BALL

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Letters

letters@metro.us

Religion in politics: Healthy debate

RE: "OBAMA POLICIES NOT AN ATTACK ON FAITH": I'm so glad you published my letter, because it actually got people talking and so many views came out on both sides which was great. 2012 will be an interesting election. With the debt problems we have, it probably won't matter who wins now; but let's see. Let's have more dialogue and somehow maybe common ground can be found somewhere — heck, anywhere!
JOHN L. HEMPHILL III, VIA E-MAIL

The establishment and free exercise clauses of the First Amendment were intended to ensure that Americans never have to put the demands of the federal government ahead of their own conscious or religious beliefs. The benefits or drawbacks from birth control is not the issue. The issue is whether government can force private employers and private citizens to violate their religious principles simply because they run a business or pay taxes.
KELLY DONNOE, VIA E-MAIL

Firstly, Obama is requiring contraception, not abortion support. Though the author of the previous letter may dislike them both equally, they aren't the same, and it is childish to use the words interchangeably just to start a flame war. Secondly, Obama isn't working to oppress people's religious freedom; he's working to keep your religious freedom from encroaching on my freedoms. If your boss were a Jehovah's Witness, and therefore believed that God was the only one allowed to cure diseases, and therefore refused to provide his or her employees with any health insurance, would you object then? Inflicting your views on others is oppression — until you're doing it in the name of religion.
LARISSA SUPNIK, VIA E-MAIL

Like the Catholic Church, I too was offended and outraged by Nicki Minaj's performance. Not because it was blasphemous, but because it was completely devoid of any talent whatsoever!
ROBERT LA ROSA, VIA E-MAIL

Don't trust your gut on spending cuts

RE: "TIME FOR CHANGE: CUTS, CUTS AND CUTS": Mr Haugen: Although the logic behind the statements made by Mr. Lew are beyond you, the truth behind the statements is unaltered. If people with no education in certain areas would stop believing their gut over mathematical certainties, the country would be better off as a whole.
MARK AQUINO, VIA E-MAIL

I'd like just once for critics of President Obama, Sterlin Richman especially, to please identify actual policies the president has put into place whereby "big government will control everything." These histrionics of theirs are getting downright embarrassing for the rest of us.
JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL

Democrats want to protect entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security. Republicans don't want to raise taxes. They can both have their way! Cease all foreign military intervention, end the "Drug War," and stop corporate welfare for banks. If we do those things, we can have the best of both worlds.
RYAN WILHELMI, WEST ROXBURY

E-mail your letters: letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** If you feel that you're capable of tackling something that is a departure from your usual endeavors, go for it. Chances are that your perceptions are totally accurate.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** A joint endeavor could prove to be particularly fortunate for you, due to an involvement with someone who is as serious and ambitious as you are.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Expect to be popular, because you'll employ your gift of making everyone feel special even more than usual. This always leads to constructive relationships and good times.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Unusually numerous opportunities regarding your job or career currently surround you. Someone at the top could be eyeing your work and liking what they see.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Even though it might be more work, it goes without saying that when you use your organizational and managerial skills more effectively, you get exceptional results. It pays to put in the time.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Express your individuality by utilizing your artistic and creative touches at work. These skills will go a long way toward making you stand out from the middling crowd.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** If you put forth your best effort, you should be able to amplify even further something good that you already have going. Think in expansive terms.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** The possibility for personal acquisition is exceptionally good at this time, owing to two special factors: one is your ability and the other is Lady Luck.

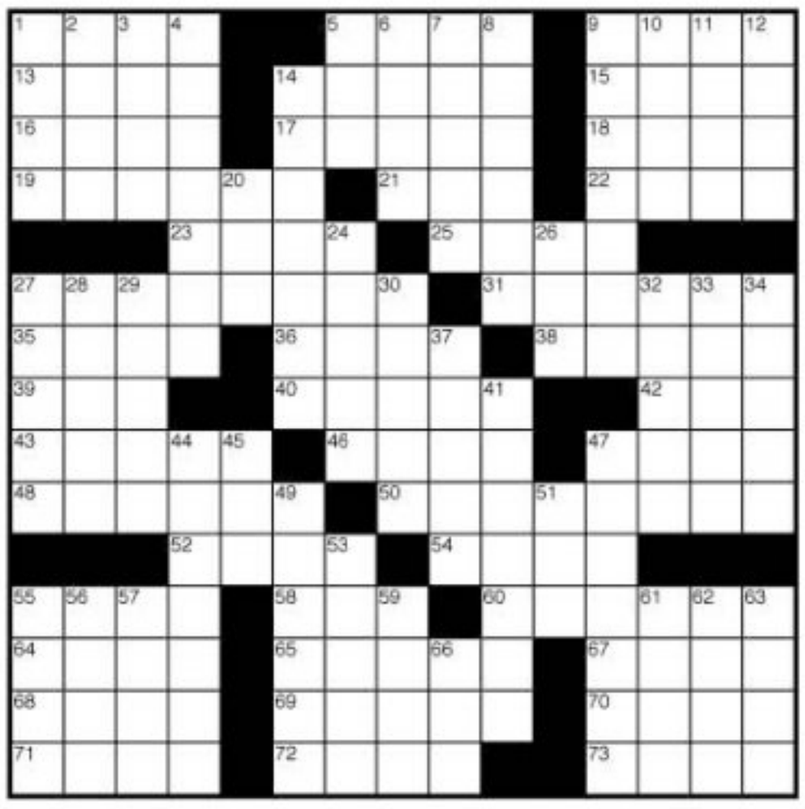
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Arousing enthusiasm in others will come easy to you, and you'll have no trouble getting folks to voluntarily participate in things that you feel are priorities. Making your interests appealing should be a snap.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Things have a way of going much better when we maintain an air of mystery and/or secrecy about our lives. Keep both your financial and domestic affairs to yourself.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Take care not to unintentionally put material things above your involvements with close friends. Constructive relationships shouldn't and can't be measured in worldly terms.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** If your objectives are more lofty and noble than usual, it's likely that you will find yourself to be unusually lucky. Unselfish gestures have a way of producing unique rewards.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Answered a judge
5 Faint flicker
10 Goat cheese
14 Bring on board
15 Argot
16 Declare frankly
17 Panache
18 Cash, for instance
19 World's longest river
20 Most devious
22 Housed a horse
24 Turn sharply
25 Caustic solution
26 Monarch look-alike
30 Direct route
34 Eclipse, to an ancient
35 Was willing to
37 Math course
38 Boy
39 Lion's quarry
40 Whichever
41 Old-time oath
43 Grand or baby grand
45 Dance movement
46 Mariachi wear
48 Runt's description
50 Electrical unit
51 Chocolate-colored dog
52 Not on the level
56 "Gunga Din" writer
60 Bob, the comedian
61 Nutty
63 Operatic prince
64 Fateful date
65 Icicle locales
66 "Nautilus" skipper
67 Ale serving
68 Candied
69 Gumbel or LeMond



Down
1 Sigh of relief
2 "Hi- __, Hi-Lo"
3 Of a historic time
4 Inhabitant
5 Clyde port
6 Pre-discount price
7 Naval off.
8 Seasons
9 Like calico cats
10 Radiator adjunct (2 wds.)
11 Sinister
12 Painted tinware
13 Impressed, plus
21 Listener's need
23 Yes vote
26 Meadow mice
27 Portrait
28 Closet liner
29 Hindu mystics
30 Untactful
31 In a huff
32 Poker pair
33 "The Mummy" setting
36 Ms. Merkel
42 Most apt to mildew
43 Heavy blossoms
44 Slickest
45 Brother or sister
47 __ Beta Kappa
49 Carpet pile
52 Mail a package
53 City near Stockton
54 Accessible
55 Make like a beaver
56 Cypress feature
57 Disney CEO Bob __
58 Iditarod terminus
59 Tar's toddy
62 Blvd.

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	2		6				1	7
7					4	6		
2		6		5		8		1
		5	1					9
4	1				9		3	
	7			4			2	
		9	2	8				

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

6				5			8	2
						5		3
	7		1		3		9	
	2		4	3		8		
		6				4		
		8		6	1		2	
	1		3		8		5	
2		9						
8	6			4				7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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food&drink

A shiny and bright Lone Star

Allston's new Taco Bar may serve food, but one of the owners insists they don't run it like a restaurant
'We opened a bar,' he says

THURSTY

LUKE O'NEIL
FOLLOW ON TWITTER @LUKEONEIL47

Contrary to popular belief, Boston isn't a bar town. There are certainly plenty of bars, but they tend to come packaged within the confines of a restaurant concept. There are a number of reasons for that, including our weird laws about alcohol in Massachusetts, but things are looking up as of late. New options like Brick and Mortar, Saloon, Backbar and jm Curley refocus the spotlight on the bar itself without making good food an afterthought. Add Lone Star Taco Bar to that list.

"We wanted to get away from how people see Mexican restaurants, like a sit-down family type of thing," co-owner Max Toste explains. "If you go to the Southwest, or parts of Mexico or Texas, there are these little cantinas. You go in and order whatever you want, hang out and drink beer and margaritas."

But here there's no culture for that, he says, despite the spate of recent tequila-focused, Mexican-themed openings.

"There are a lot of places that have opened as restaurants and are run like restaurants. We opened a bar."

Similar to Deep Ellum, the popular spot next door which he runs with partner Aaron Sanders, Lone Star is a bar that also has great food, but in a non-restauranty kind of way.

"If you wanted to go in and have a couple Pacificos and a shot of tequila and split, that's fine. Or you can come in and eat everything. ... It's a different sort of feel," he says. "Even more casual, and a little more fun. Tequila and street food are fun."

ERIN BALDASSARI/METRO

▶ Lindsay Coleman, left and husband J.B. Bernstein enjoy a drink at Lone Star Taco Bar. Bernstein, incidentally, tends bar at Backbar.

Drink this

Consider Dave Cagle's Hombre sin Nombre as a gateway cocktail. It's a sort of tequila- or mezcal-based Sazerac with agave syrup, homemade mole bitters and Peychaud's bitters in a glass rinsed with chartreuse. "If you drink a really good, artisan mezcal it's really different," Toste says.

Drink more tequila

Tequila and street food are fun indeed – for a lot of people they may be too much fun. Toste, like this writer, would like to see people liberated from their negative impressions of tequilas and mezcals.

"A lot of people don't know that they like tequila because all they've had is really s—y, mass-produced tequila," he says. "I'd had the same experience a lot of people had from 18 to 20, where you get housed on crack tequila and take your pants off in the street at Downtown Crossing or whatever, then never have it again."

To combat that, he's hand-selected a smaller list (no 200+ superfluous options here) of quality spirits that he thinks might do the trick.

If you go

Lone Star Taco Bar
479 Cambridge St., Allston
617-782-8226

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Visitors to the Museum are invited to step up to a podium set before the actual scene of JFK's January 20, 1961 inauguration and, guided by computerized visual prompts, deliver some of the most stirring passages of his Inaugural address. "You Be the President" will be open from February 18 through February 26, 2012.

The Presidency and Civil Rights
Monday, February 20, 2012, 12:30 pm - 5 pm

This conference will examine key moments in the civil rights movement during five American presidencies – from Roosevelt to Johnson – with a final panel examining contemporary civil rights struggles in the years after the signing of the Civil Rights Act. To make a reservation call **617-514-1643** or register online at **www.jfklibrary.org**.

Celebrate! Free Children's Program
Djembe dell'Arte - African Dance and Drumming
Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:30 am

Experience the energy and excitement of African Dance with Djembe dell'Arte, accompanied by drumming ensemble Troupe Komee Djosee from Mali, West Africa. The performance features authentic African masks and costumes, folk dances of Mali, and a lively drum circle. The program is free but reservations are required. To make a reservation, please call **617-514-1644** or register online at **www.jfklibrary.org**. This program is for children ages 5 and up.

Presidents' Day Family Festival
Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 10:30 am - 3 pm

The Kennedy Library will host its second annual family festival. Children can make origami sailboats, interact with Thomas Jefferson and Dolley Madison, experience 18th-century life with clothing and stories from John and Abigail Adams, and learn the story of how a message on a coconut husk helped save the lives of JFK and his PT-109 crew during WWII. Another highlight of the day will be a Jacqueline Kennedy themed tour to honor the 50th anniversary of Mrs. Kennedy's Emmy Award-winning televised White House tour and a special apperance and book signing with award winning author Barbara Kerley. **Visit www.jfklibrary.org for a detailed schedule of the Family Festival offerings**. Special festival activities are free with paid admission; children age 12 and under are admitted free of charge.

JFK Museum Store Special Offer

Receive a free copy of Jacqueline Kennedy's White House Tour on DVD with your purchase in-store and online at store.jfklibrary.org! This special promotion starts on February 14th, 2012, the fiftieth anniversary of Mrs. Kennedy's historic tour, and ends on February 26th, 2012.

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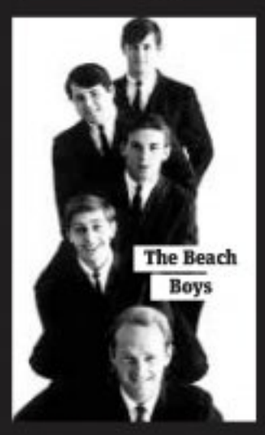

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Roger Waters
"The Wall" Live
July 1
Fenway Park
(On sale Monday)

Around this time of year, The Saw Doctors come over from Ireland to help Americans celebrate St. Patrick's Day But they are always 'the most sober people in the building'

ARE THERE ANY DOCTORS IN THE HOUSE?

Rather cleverly, Irish rock vets The Saw Doctors start their winter tour in Florida. Could it be the allure of winter sun?

"We haven't gotten to Florida very often," says guitarist Leo Moran, "but, yes, it'll be nice to get a bit of sunshine at this time of year."

He considers his statement.

"Actually, when you're from over here," he says, speaking from Ireland, "that helps any time of the year."

The tour isn't timed just to sneak in some sunbathing though. The Saw Doctors hope to catch some St. Patrick's Day action.

"St. Patrick's Day is a license for an Irish man to go anywhere, you know," laughs Moran. "But we're always the most sober people in the building on St. Patrick's Day. That's the way it works for us."

Moran agrees with the (unproven, but almost certain) theory that Americans will whoop it up whatever the occasion.

"They're real celebrators. They're great party throwers. When you're invited to a party in the States, you're really invited to a party. You can be sure it's going to be a proper shindig and no messing."

Credit indeed given to the Irish propensity for gaiety, whether it's a wedding or a wake.

"That's the thing here, you celebrate the person's life and you enjoy yourself. A cousin of mine said he'd rather go to a wake than a wedding. It's more fun and you don't have to take a present."

▶ The Saw Doctors are, from left, Kevin Duffy, Eimhin Cradock, Davy Carton, Moran and Anthony Thistlewhaite.

RAY BURMISTON

If you go

The Saw Doctors
March 9
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston
$29.50-$45, all ages
800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

Who gets wilder on St. Paddy's Day, Irish or Americans?

"Irish America is a nation of its own," says Moran. "It's neither Irish nor American. It's its own thing and it's their big day. It's amazing what they make of it, really. It's hardly that big of a thing in Ireland. A bit of a parade down the town and then everybody goes to the pub afterwards. It's become a bit more [of a thing in] the last few years. But even so, it's nothing like the States."

Also on stage

Ronan Tynan

Saturday, 7 p.m.
Cathedral of the Holy Cross
1400 Washington St., Boston
$25, 617-542-5682
www.holycrossboston.com
It's hard to tell what's more inspirational about Ronan Tynan — his beautiful, powerful singing voice, or his life story. The former Irish Tenor was born with his legs too short, and after a car accident at 20, had them amputated completely. With his new prosthetic legs, he went onto become a Paralympics track and field champion.

BILL WIPPERT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tynan is at Cathedral of the Holy Cross on Saturday.

The Del Fuegos

Wednesday, 8 p.m.
The Paradise
967 Comm. Ave., Boston
$25, 18+, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com
In the punk-dominated indie rock world of the '80s, the Del Fuegos' loyalty to classic garage pop/rock made them seem like Boston's answer to The Replacements, whose fate they shared, crashing and burning by the '90s. They reunited in 2011, and we're glad to see it stuck, 'cause someone needs to show these kids today how it's done.

MATTHEW DINARO

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Meet the contenders

Some familiar faces, but more than a few newbies ◗ Heat, Bulls the favorites in the East as expected ◗ Celtics currently absent from list ◗ Lin-sanity vaults Knicks into Top 8

A look at the teams in the mix for the NBA title as we approach the annual All-Star break, which takes place next weekend in Orlando.

There are really only two teams in the Eastern Conference with a legit chance of winning the tile ... as of today:

Front-runners

You can hate the **Heat** all you want, but you can't argue the fact that they're probably the best team in the NBA, and that's with injuries too. They just swept a back-to-back-to-back on the road by 15-plus points each. Ho hum.

The **Thunder** have to be the favorite out of the West, and with guys like Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook, it's easy to see why. Those two are great, but it's the supporting cast — James Harden, Thabo Sefolosha, and Kendrick Perkins — that will put them over the top.

If it's **Bulls** vs. Heat in the Eastern Conference finals, nobody will be surprised.

Chicago is solid across the board, have the best record in the East, and now play 12 out of the next 16 at home. They'll need a healthy Derrick Rose though.

▶ Kevin Durant

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

After a rocky start to the season, the defending champ **Mavericks** look to be back on track. It's just a matter of time before the Lamar Odom trade starts paying huge dividends. And don't forget Dirk Nowitzki either — one of the all-time great scoring power forwards.

Puncher's chance

The **Sixers** were thought to be decent, but this good? It's true. The second unit, or "The Night Shift" of Thadeus Young, Louis Williams, and Evan Turner has separated the Sixers from the pretenders. They are extremely deep, and it will show in the postseason.

You would be crazy to write off the **Lakers.** They've got maybe the best frontcourt in the NBA with Pau Gasol and Andrew Bynum, and Kobe Bryant is somehow still at the top of his game. Trading for a point guard could be the missing piece.

"Lob City" has lived up to the hype so far, and if the **Clippers** can stay healthy, athleticism alone is enough to shoot them to the Western Conference finals. With Chris Paul and two beasts in Blake Griffin and DeAndre Jordan, they can win any given night.

There are many questions ahead, for the **Knicks**, but mainly, "Can Jeremy Lin and Carmelo Anthony coexist?" The answer better be yes, because they lucked out with Lin. He won't keep up this pace, but he's the point guard they desperately needed and he saved Mike D'Antoni's job. Add on Amar'e Stoudemire, and the Knicks could make serious noise.

26.8
Knicks point guard Jeremy Lin's points per game average while leading New York to six straight victories.

1
The number of times Oklahoma City has lost back-to-back games this season.

9
Number of games that separate the Nos. 1 and 8 seeds in the Eastern Conference. As of today the Bulls would face the Knicks in the first round of the playoffs while the No. 7 seeded Celtics would face No. 2 Miami.

▶ New York's Jeremy Lin has taken the sports world by storm.

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

In the news

Bobby V, taskmaster

Bobby Valentine hasn't backed down from his image as a disciplinarian and things already seem to be changing compared to the type of camp Terry Francona ran.

"We all know that no one likes change," Valentine told the Boston Globe while speaking about his spring training regimen. "I would bet there will be 100 guys who won't really like it because it's a change for them. But they'll get used to it."

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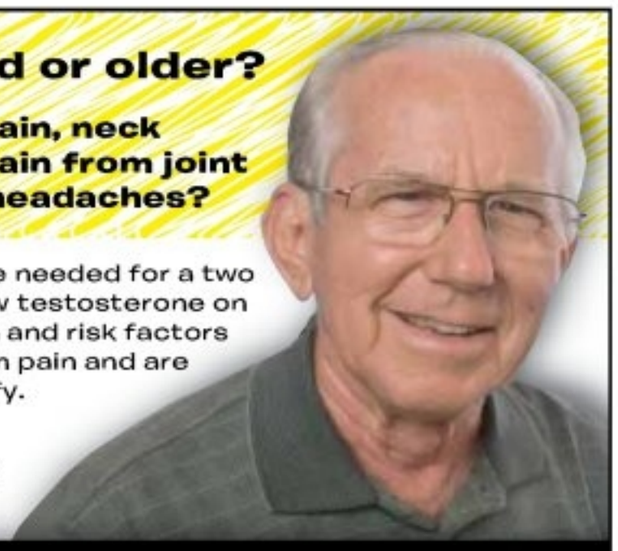

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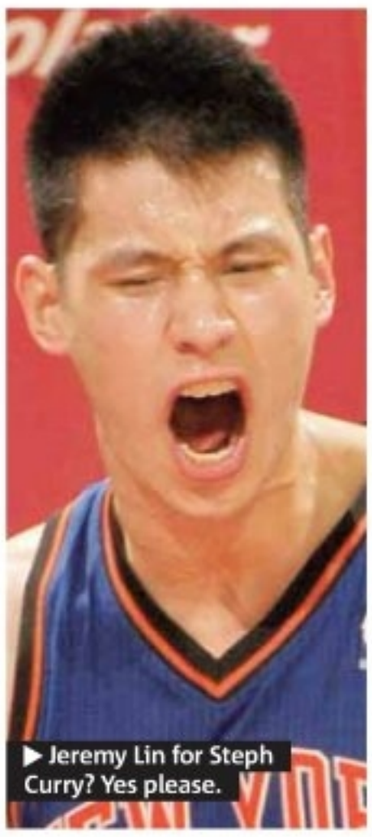
WHAT TO MAKE OF ALL THIS LIN-SANITY

Jeremy Lin owners have a sore shoulder from patting themselves on the back so hard. The real trick is seeing what the trade market bears for the Knicks' phenom.

Over the last six games, the former undrafted free agent out of Harvard is averaging 26.8 points and 8.5 assists. Expecting him to sustain that is unrealistic — even for the biggest "Linsanity" fans.

Hot shot

During Lin's 21 career D-League games, the point guard shot 48 percent from the field. When players make the leap to the pros, their shooting percentage inevitably comes down. But since bursting onto the scene with the Knicks, Lin is at 50.4 percent. A regression is coming.


▶ Jeremy Lin for Steph Curry? Yes please.

Melo issues

If Carmelo Anthony (groin) was healthy, Lin wouldn't even have taken that game-winning shot against the Raptors. Once Melo gets back in the lineup, Lin's attempts and time with the ball will go down. Right now, he's getting 19.5 shots up per night. Anthony was a "ball hog" at 18.8 attempts per game.

How high?

All this said, we should not be selling Lin on the cheap. He's going to settle in around 32-35 minutes, well off the 40 he's playing right now. But he'll still be a top-50 player as a perfect fit for Mike D'Antoni's offense. Aim for the top-30.

Fantasy sports

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Top NBA pickups

Nicolas Batum

▶ **F, Blazers**
Portland is struggling, so they are turning their mega-talented sixth man into a starter. Major upside.

J.R. Smith

▶ **SG, Free agent**
Smith is on his way back from China and has been linked to the Clippers' starting gig.

Baseball rookies

With spring training almost here, it's time for elite prospects to jump onto the fantasy radar:

1 **Matt Moore, SP, TB —** Moore struck out 210 batters over 155 innings in the minors last year, and then dominated in Game 1 of the ALDS. There isn't a better pitching prospect in the game.

▶ Moore

2 **Bryce Harper, C, WAS —** He's a long shot to make the team out of spring training at the tender age of 19. But a late-season callup could be worth the wait for Harper's elite power. Be sure to keep Harper in mind.

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